



THE METER READER

December 2025

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

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agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting: 12.03.25 **CANCELLED**
- Special Board Workshop: 12.08.25 at 9:00AM
- Regular Board Meeting: 12.17.25 at 5:00 pm

Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

*(Mark your calendars & watch for more information in our January 2026 **special** newsletter edition!)*

- January 23, 2026: Docent/Volunteer Mtg., Fri. @ 5PM (for new and returning members)
- January 30, 2026: Free Native Plant Workshop @ JTNP 9AM, 29 Palms

Monthly Water Use

September 2025: 89.1 GPCD

The measure used for reporting water conservation is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD value reported here reflects water usage from three months earlier. California aims to achieve 42 GPCD by the year 2030.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

DECEMBER WATER SAVING TIP:



Traditionally, winter can bring our community measurable rainfall. This is FREE water! Consider gifting yourself with a rain harvesting system! With basic to decorative choices, the water run-off you save can be significantly useful in the long run, sparing good tap water for important quality of life uses!



Curious Minds Want to Know

Question:

JBWD's Annual Audit findings were announced at the last November Board meeting. Other than the District's website, does it go anywhere else?

Answer:

The Annual Audit, which by law, is handled by an outside third-party CPA Auditor, boasts "mileage" to many other agencies. They, in turn, review and note JBWD's successful stewardship of public funds. They are:

- County of San Bernardino
- NBS for Copper Mountain Mesa Association Bond Holders
- Requesting Citizens Advisory Council
- Municipal Finance Corporation
- LAFCO
- Mojave Water Agency
- State Controller
- U.S. Bank
- USDA
- Dunn and Bradstreet
- Board of Directors
- Any requesting party



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Frozen Pipes reminder: When frozen, gallon of water will expand to a volume 9% greater than the original gallon of water. That is all it takes to burst an exposed water pipe!

Now that winter is upon us:

Review last month's tips on "winterizing" to ensure your holidays don't end 2025 or start 2026 in a frozen waterline break disaster! With minimal costs up front, you may end up saving hundreds of dollars in repairs.



JT FARMERS' MARKET



Ideas for water-centric gift giving will greet you at our Market booth the first three weeks in December. Giving water saving and water themed gifts are considered the "gift that keeps giving!" Thereafter, JBWD's booth will be on "holiday" the following Saturday, December 27, 2025, and January 3rd, 2026. We'll be back regularly starting Saturday, January 10, to welcome in the new year! Be sure to stop by for your new 2026 desert gardening calendar, too!!



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

At the November 17, 2025, Regular Board of Directors' meeting, three key Agenda items were addressed:

- The 2024-2025 Annual Audit Report, which revealed a “Clean-Unmodified” financial position representing good stewardship of all funds and State compliance. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the audit.
- Preliminary discussions regarding a potential *Septic-To-Sewer* project in Joshua Tree, which presented some fascinating perspectives from those in attendance. If you missed it, this topic is a must watch as it affects us all.
- The Board was also enlightened on the new (SB)7072025 Brown Act Modifications, as presented by the District’s Attorney.

Note: Board Meeting Minutes and recordings are made available (and posted) after the Board of Directors review and approve the Minutes at their following meeting.



Holiday CLOSURES



December 2025 Plant of the Month

Aleppo Pine

Pinus halepensis

Plant Form: Evergreen tree

Water Use: Very low

Mature Size: 20-60 ft. tall x 30-40 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun

Bloom Time: Fall (Sept-Nov), Winter (Dec-Feb)

Native to: Mediterranean Region

Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 10°F

Aleppo Pine is a drought-tolerant, two-needle pine that is often sold in California as a living Christmas tree. It tolerates and even thrives in extreme temperatures, drought, high heat, frost, severe wind, and poor soil because it is native to arid regions around the Mediterranean Sea with climates similar to ours. Both male and female cones grow on the same tree; small male cones produce copious amounts of pollen, while female cones grow singly or in whorls. When young, growth is symmetrical with upright branching from a single trunk. As it matures, the crown becomes more open, and the tree often develops multiple trunks. These resilient pines can live up to 150 years or more under ideal conditions. They are low maintenance, requiring watering only their first few years until established; after that, occasional deep water at their drip line is enough to protect them from any dieback from strong winds. Suited to large residential gardens, parks, and commercial plantings, looking at home with other traditional Mediterranean landscape plants.



awac

Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow

Alliance for Water
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,
contact your local water provider or go to

www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/

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Produced by The SummerTree Institute (www.SummerTree.org)



GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE

- Water after 9AM and before 6PM. If possible, turn your watering system off
- Prune to shape evergreens like arborvitae, juniper, pines, and cypress; consider using trimmings for holiday decor
- Prune dense trees to avoid wind damage; make sure young trees are well staked
- When frost threatens, cover delicate plants with large cardboard boxes, old sheets or tarps overnight
- Based on irregular winter weather (wind, rain or snow) only water manually to avoid water line breaks due to freezing temperatures



HISTORIC MEDICINAL USES OF ALEPPO PINE

Pinus halepensis

In the past, Aleppo Pine was identified for its antiseptic, mucolytic and expectorant properties, thus useful in treating Bronchitis, colds, coughs, pharyngitis or sinusitis. It was also used to treat Rheumatism, urinary tract infections, and others. Learn more--visit: <https://www.botanical-online.com/en/medicinal-plants/aleppo-pine-properties>

>>> 2026 CITIZENS advisory council (cac)

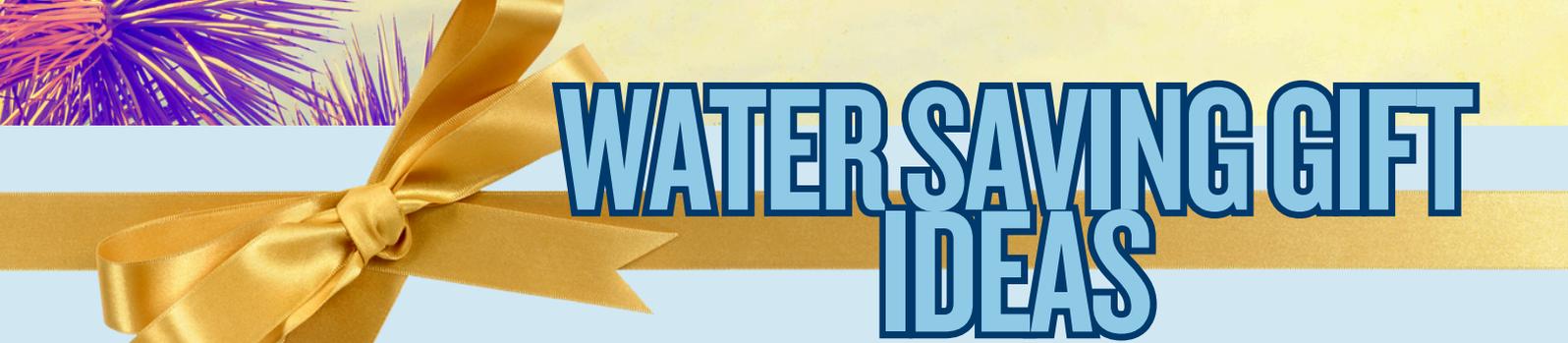


- David Carrillo, Chairman
- Fred Jaross, Vice-Chairman
- Hannah Campbell
- Debbi Truncale

- Melvin Smith
- Crystal Wysong
- Thomas Fjallstam
- Kami Zimmerman

The Citizens Advisory Council is comprised of volunteer community members who are JBWD Rate Payers, as well as Joshua Tree registered voters. This group of ten individuals is appointed by the District's Board of Directors, via an application process, to be public representatives for our Community-Owned Water District. They generally meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at 5PM to discuss and review concerns facing the District as a whole and provide feedback to staff and Board Members on issues that impact our water. Some topics include, but are not limited to sewers for Joshua Tree, rate increases, Chromium 6 unfunded mandates, and much more.

Currently, the Council has two vacant seats to fill. If you are passionate about our community's water and impacting the future of Joshua Tree, then consider applying to become a council member! Visit: <https://www.jbwd.com/citizens-advisory-council>



WATER SAVING GIFT IDEAS

Manual Shower Timer (under \$10)



Web search “Mechanical Shower Timers” and be amazed at the clever options available: owls, frogs, water drop configurations are at hand for all ages! Every extra minute you spend in the shower consumes approximately 2.1 gallons of water. This translates to roughly 767 gallons wasted annually from just one additional minute daily. Beyond your water bill, this waste contributes to regional water scarcity, increases energy consumption for water heating, and puts unnecessary strain on water treatment facilities.

Plant Moisture Meter (under \$10)



Plant moisture meters are great water *and* plant savers! They help prevent over watering (the #1 way to kill your plants) and saves water while saving you the time it takes to water. Gifting a plant moisture meter, along with a holiday plant, is a great idea as the moisture meter can also be used with all the other recipients' plants, not just one!

Waterless Car Wash (under \$20)



For the “on the go” car buff in your life, a bottle of waterless car wash can quickly put a shine on autos, trucks, motorcycles, RVs and more--without having to drag out a garden hose and waste precious tap water! Better yet, consider gift certificates to a local car wash (they recycle water!).

Self-Watering Plant Pots (\$5 on up)



Self-watering plant pots are life savers for those who are traveling or are just on the go and inattentive to their house plants' watering needs. They come in all sizes and varieties (plastic, ceramic, metal, etc.) so you can adjust it to your gift-giving budget. Best of all, the plants only drink the water as needed, so there is no water waste! You can also find “water globes” that simply get filled and planted into the plants soil, as an alternative.

Water Bottles (\$2 on up!)



This is a universal gift--it comes in all prices, sizes, styles, qualities, decor, and functionalities. You can even get them personalized with names! Many get lost or ruined through general use, so you just can't have too many! Carrying your own drinking water ensures good hydration for good health, money saved (compared to buying bottled water), and just the value of using your own safe tap water vs. plastic bottled water.



HYDRATION & Holiday Stress

“How much water you drink each day may shape how your body handles stress.”

Adults who drank less than six cups of water or any beverage daily had a 50 percent higher surge in the stress hormone cortisol when under pressure, according to a new [study](#) published in the Journal of Applied Physiology. “Dehydration doesn’t just affect your physical health; it can also make your stress response stronger,” Daniel Kashi, a researcher at Liverpool John Moores University in England and lead study author.

“Over time, high cortisol levels have been linked to problems like heart disease, kidney issues, and diabetes,” Kashi added.

Why dehydration amplifies stress:

Cortisol is central to how the body handles stress—it helps you stay alert, focused, and ready to act. However, when cortisol levels stay high too often, it can wreak havoc on your health, raising risks for high blood pressure, weight gain, and heart disease.

The new research hints at one reason why something as ordinary as not drinking enough water might increase cortisol levels. “The mechanism behind this stress amplification involves the body’s sophisticated water management system,” said Neil Walsh, study co-author and a professor at Liverpool John Moores University. When the body starts to lose fluids—whether from a long workout, a hot day, or simply not drinking enough—it releases a water-saving hormone that also flips on the stress system.

[Click here to read the entire Epoch Times article.](#)